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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Extensions of country programmes in the Africa region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the six-month extension of the UNFPA country programme for Rwanda; the one-year extensions of the UNFPA country programmes for Nigeria and Togo; the two-year extension of the UNFPA country programme for Comoros; and the third one-year extension of the UNFPA country programme for Namibia.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the six-month extension and the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second or third year, or two-year extensions, are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to: (a) take note of the six-month country programme extension for Rwanda, as indicated in table 1; (b) take note of the one-year country programme extensions for Nigeria and Togo, as indicated in table 2; (c) approve the two-year country programme extension for Comoros, as indicated in table 3; and (d) approve the exceptional third-year extension of the country programme for Namibia, as indicated in table 4.

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Table 1. Six-month country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Rwanda	2008-2012	January-June 2013	In April 2011, following the regional planning workshop for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the United Nations country team decided to align the United Nations planning and programming cycle with the government fiscal cycle (July-June). The current UNDAF expires in December 2012, and the national development and poverty reduction strategy expires in June 2013. The current UNDAF will be extended through June 2013, to align the next cycle with the government fiscal year. The United Nations development assistance planning process is embedded in the revision of the economic development and poverty reduction strategy of Rwanda.	A new prime minister was appointed in October 2011. Political party activities have been peaceful.	The extension of the country programme will contribute to achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health, promote reproductive rights, and accelerate progress in achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development and Millennium Development Goal 5 (on improving maternal health) in the context of 'delivering as one'. UNFPA will support data analysis of the 2012 population census, national capacity development for data management, and the civil registration system. UNFPA will also support the development of a national policy and guidelines in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender. At central and decentralized levels, UNFPA will support the Government in developing capacity to improve maternal health through: (a) campaigns to end fistula; (b) maternal and newborn death audits; (c) emergency obstetric and neonatal care; (d) midwifery; (e) the community-based provision of family planning methods; (f) reproductive health commodity security; (g) adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health; and (h) prevention of HIV.

Table 2. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Nigeria	2009-2012	2013	The national development plan for Nigeria Vision 20:2020 has been programmed for medium-term implementation. The first implementation plan is for the period 2011-2013, while the second implementation period will begin in 2014. The United Nations country team, in consultation with the Government, has requested a one-year extension of its current assistance framework to align its programme cycle with the national planning cycle.	The current Government administration took office in May 2011. The Government, at federal and state levels, is pursuing a development agenda focused on transforming the national economy. The Government is implementing sector and subsector programmes in collaboration with development partners. The country has faced some security challenges, which have posed challenges to national development.	In line with agreed national priorities, the extension of the UNFPA country programme will focus on universal access to high-quality sexual and reproductive health, as well as maternal health services, which are key to achieving Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health. The programme will seek to consolidate and strengthen the following areas: (a) reproductive health commodity security, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care, obstetric fistula, and the integration of reproductive health and HIV; and (b) youth health and development. The following will be cross-cutting areas of the programme: (a) data collection, analysis, utilization and dissemination; (b) monitoring and evaluation; (c) gender-sensitive legislation; (d) prevention of gender-based violence and rehabilitation for its victims; (e) advocacy; (f) community health financing and budgetary processes; (g) strengthening the health system; and (h) institutional support.

Table 2. (continued)

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Togo	2008-2012	2013	The programmes and activities of United Nations organizations in Togo, in line with United Nations global reform, are reflected in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The Government has requested a one-year extension of the UNDAF to allow for the development of a new poverty reduction strategy paper that will define priorities for international cooperation. The United Nations system will align the next UNDAF to the newly designed poverty reduction strategy paper. UNFPA will develop a new programme based on the priorities to be defined in the UNDAF and in the poverty reduction strategy paper.	Following the presidential elections of March 2010, the Government has been engaged in administrative and financial reform. In the political sphere, the country is experiencing a period of calm and tranquillity, especially with the ongoing 'justice, truth and reconciliation' process established to address social injustices of the past. Legislative elections are scheduled for 2012.	The one-year extension of the country programme will provide a sound basis for the new country programme. It will allow the integration of the findings and recommendations of the final country programme evaluation. To ensure the continuity of the ongoing programme, the country office will: (a) support the dissemination and use of census data in formulating the poverty reduction strategy paper and sectoral strategies; (b) develop the capacity of institutions and experts to analyse and use census data to plan and monitor policies and plans, in particular for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5; (c) strengthen partnerships with United Nations organizations to implement the joint programme on promoting maternal health; (d) enhance community engagement and expand mobile services for improved access to reproductive health services, including for young people; and (e) engage the private sector and religious leaders to advocate the repositioning of family planning in the development agenda and the reduction of gender-based violence.

Table 3. Two-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Comoros	2008-2012	2013-2014	With the adoption of the national interim growth and poverty reduction strategy (2010-2014), and the evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the United Nations country team decided, in consultation with the Government, to extend the UNDAF cycle for two years. This extension will respond to the request of the Government that the United Nations and other donors be aligned to the national growth and poverty reduction strategy paper. It will also enable the United Nations organizations to further align their contributions to the 'one programme', which began in 2010 under the 'delivering as one' programme. The UNFPA country programme will, of necessity, also be extended for two years, through 2014.	As a post-conflict country, Comoros is undergoing peace consolidation by implementing its peacebuilding funds programme. Presidential elections were held in December 2010. A new Government was constituted following the appointment of the new President in May 2011.	The extension of the country programme will focus on key issues identified by the UNDAF and the United Nations 'one programme'. The UNDAF, as well as the UNFPA country programme, will be extended for two years, through 2014. UNFPA will support Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health by providing support to the Government through the United Nations joint programme to reduce maternal and newborn deaths, a programme that UNFPA leads. The country programme will continue to support family planning and adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and provide reproductive health commodity supplies and HIV-prevention services. It will reinforce the quality of emergency obstetric and newborn care, and support audits and reviews of maternal deaths in eight health districts. UNFPA will support the implementation of the national strategy for statistics development, with a focus on data collection and management systems. The country programme will strengthen the capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics to develop a census resource mobilization strategy and support the preparation and conduct of the 2013 census. UNFPA will continue to support the implementation of the action plan of the national policy on gender equality and equity through national capacity-building to prevent and manage gender-based violence.

Table 4. Third one-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Namibia	2006-2010 2011-2012 (two-year extension)	2013	The United Nations country team in Namibia, in consultation with the Government, has agreed to extend the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for one year, through the end of 2013. This will enable the new UNDAF to be aligned with Namibia's fourth national development plan, which will only be finalized in August 2012, and to respond to identified national priorities. The next cycle of support by UNFPA to Namibia must also be aligned to the UNDAF; hence, there is a need for the current UNFPA country programme to also be extended for an additional year, through the end of December 2013.	Namibia is a politically stable country, with the current Government halfway through its tenure. The country, which subscribes to a multi-party system, holds regular elections that have been judged free and fair.	The one-year extension of the country programme will contribute to: addressing high HIV prevalence; increasing access to and the utilization and provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services; strengthening national statistical systems for evidence-based policymaking; and strengthening the commitment and leadership of Government and stakeholders to create an enabling environment for a multisectoral response. UNFPA will provide support to: (a) improve maternal health; (b) implement the national framework for addressing HIV; (c) finalize the gender policy and the gender-based violence plan of action; (d) analyse the 2011 population and housing census; and (e) integrate sexual and reproductive health and HIV interventions.